Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /046 W

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P R 121010Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6595
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
DOD
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CONFIDENTIAL MOGADISCIO 1573

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR, US, SO

SUBJ: GSDR INVITES US NAVY VISIT

1. VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE BRIGADIER GENERAL OMAR HAJI MOHAMED INVITED CHARGE TO THE MINISTRY THIS MORNING, JULY 12. AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC WOULD WELCOME SHIP VISITS BY THE UNITED STATES NAVY. THE SOMALI OFFICER SAID THAT OPENING SOMALI PORTS WAS ONE WAY IN WHICH THE SMALLER NATION COULD COOPERATE WITH THE LARGER POWER IN THE IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE WHICH NOW CHARACTERIZES THE RELATIONS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND THE UNITED STATES. GENERAL OMAR HAJI SAID THE SUBJECT OF SHIP VISITS WAS DISCUSSED IN THE PAST, BUT THERE WAS NO FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE US SIDE. AS SOON AS A REQUEST WAS RECEIVED, HE ADDED, IT WOULD BE GRANTED WITHOUT ANY BUREAUCRATIC DELAY. IN RESPONSE TO THE CHARGE'S QUESTIONS, THE GENERAL SAID THAT BUNKER-ING FACILITIES COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AT BERBERA, MOG-ADISCIO, AND CHISIMAYU. HE ALSO SAID THAT SAILOR LIBERTY PARTIES WOULD BE WELCOME ASHORE, AND THAT SOMALI OFFICERS CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE CALLS FROM US NAVY OFFICERS AND TO ATTEND SHIPBOARD FUNCTIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY THE GENERAL INSTRUCTED HIS AIDE TO INQUIRE ABOUT BUNKERING FACILITIES AND INFORM THE EMBASSY BY JULY 15 OF EXACTLY WHAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN EACH PORT.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THE USG

MOVE PROMPTLY TO ACCEPT THE SOMALI OFFER AND SEND A SHIP TO MOGADISCIO. WE UNDERTAKE NO SPECIAL COMMITMENT IN SO DOING, BUT THE GSDR WILL REGARD A SPEEDY RESPONSE AS A POSITIVE SIGN. CHARGE WELCOMED THE SOMALI OFFER AS "A NORMAL STEP IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN FRIENDLY STATES", AND SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE IT TO WASHINGTON FORTHWITH.

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